

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of April 7-11 2008**

**Montgomery College Facilities Plan Community Open House - Tuesday, April 22:**

Montgomery College is updating the College's Facilities Master Plan and needs input regarding the future growth of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The College's team will provide a presentation on the current master plan, an overview of existing conditions, and data concerning projected growth. There will be opportunities for community input. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Takoma Park/Spring Campus at the Student Services Center, 7625 Fenton St. in Conference Room 302. For more information, please contact Ms. Rose Denegal at 240-567-5371 or by email at [rose.denegal@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:rose.denegal@montgomerycollege.edu). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Takoma Park Elementary School Community Meeting - Wednesday, April 23:** City staff will host a meeting to review the plans and other materials related to the Takoma Park Elementary School Addition. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. The meeting is in preparation for a presentation to the City Council scheduled for Monday, April 28. For more information on this process, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**New Wayfinding and Gateway Signs:** The City has installed new gateway and area identification signs and business area pedestrian map kiosks this week. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**New Hampshire Avenue Community Greening/Gardening Networking and Design Meeting - Tuesday, April 15 (Wards 2, 3 and 6):** Interested in learning more about community gardening and greening activities? If so, please join us on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Bright Light Baptist Church at 7300 New Hampshire Avenue (at Glenside). Not only will you have an opportunity to network with others interested in putting together a project, two speakers will also give short design presentations: Professor Ralph Belton on designing for sacred spaces, and Lee Edgecomb, on landscaping to increase physical safety and security of public and private spaces. Grant funds are available for community greening/gardening projects along the corridor. For more information, contact Paul Grenier at 301-891-7220. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Free First time Homebuyer Seminar - Saturday April 12:** Are you preparing to become a homeowner? You will want to attend Takoma Park's First Time Home Buyer Seminar, which is being offered free of charge tomorrow, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. Learn how to improve your credit score, obtain a mortgage, understand the terms of your loan, and what first time home buyer programs are available to purchasers in Montgomery County. The same program will be offered in Spanish on May 10. To register for the seminar, call 301-891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**2008 Homeowners and Renters Tax Credit Applications Available:** Maryland homeowners and renters who have limited or fixed incomes may qualify for a tax credit which is applied against real property tax bills. Eligibility for the program is based on gross household income. To determine whether you qualify for a 2008 tax credit, you

can obtain an application online at [www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html](http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html) or by calling (301) 891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Housing Staff Attends Montgomery County Affordable Housing Conference:**

Department of Housing staff attended the 17th annual Affordable Housing Conference on Friday April 4th. The conference, held in Bethesda, focused on seeking solutions to provide affordable housing in the county. County Executive Isiah Leggett discussed the county's affordable housing task force's recommendations and there were panel discussions on various topics such as regulatory and zoning reform and financing tools. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**New Code Enforcement Inspector:** The Housing and Community Development Department welcomes Mr. Steve Rheinhart, the City's new Code Enforcement Inspector. Prior to his employment with the City, Mr. Rheinhart worked as an inspector with the DC Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Georgia Bureau of Alcohol Beverage Control in Atlanta. His new responsibilities include the enforcement of the city's Property Maintenance Code and the Targeted Area Inspection Program. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Exhibits at the Takoma Park Community Center:**

Bobbi Kittner's mixed media creations composed of found objects and old Playskool blocks, can be seen this month in Gallery Three, on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

"The Human Concept", an exhibit of the work of local artists Cheryl Edwards and Susan Crane which demonstrates the inner parts of human beings through color and light and shadow, is on display in the Atrium Gallery on the main floor.

The "Photography of Don Olsen" which records many familiar scenes throughout the community can be viewed in the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery on the main floor.

The exhibits are sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. To learn more about how you can exhibit your work, please contact the AHC at 301-891-7224 or by email at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Police Department Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 90 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, two vehicle impounds, and one CDS arrest. (*Police*)

**Police Department Staff Meeting/Training Attendance:**

On April 7-8, S/Dsp. Angelina Cannatella attended Miles/NCIC training in Baltimore, Maryland.

On April 8, Ms. Pullet attended a Records Management meeting in Rockville, Maryland.

On April 9, Ms. Dean, Ms. Luy and Ms. Plevy had their second meeting with City Communication Staff to discuss on-going preparation of the newest version of the Police Department's web page.

On April 10, Chief Ricucci, with CSAFE staff, attended the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) meeting. This meeting was immediately followed by another meeting with property managers and owners in the Crossroads community about reducing the perception of crime in the shopping district.

On April 10, Pfc. Atwell and Ms. Plevy gave a K-9 presentation to a local Brownie Troop.

On April 10, Ms. Luy attended the Compstat meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

On April 10, Ms. Pullet attended an E-Justice System meeting in Rockville, Maryland.

On April 11, Chief Ricucci met with City leadership of Washington Adventist Hospital to discuss security.

On April 11, Ms. Pullet attended the dispatch in-service training in Takoma Park, Maryland.

**Volunteers needed! Cleanup Day in Old Takoma - Saturday, April 19:** The Main Street Takoma Design Committee needs your help to sweep, weed, clean off graffiti and otherwise spruce up Old Takoma. To volunteer please call (240) 253-4229. This is a Student Service Learning eligible activity. Meet at 9 a.m. at Takoma Junction, Laurel Avenue or 4th St, N.W. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**City TV at Tastes of Takoma:** City TV crews will be using the PEG Network Mobile Production Vehicle at Sunday's Tastes of Takoma event on the campus of Columbia Union College (*Communications*)

**Crossroads Market Fundraiser - Wednesday, April 16:** On Wednesday April 16 at 7:30 p.m, the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (310 Tulip Avenue) will host a lecture by Lester Brown, sustainable development expert and Worldwatch Institute founder. A reception for Mr. Brown will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Crossroads Farmers Market. The Market - located in the Takoma Langley Crossroads area - is open on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. with its 2008 season slated to begin later this spring. For more information, please contact [crossroadslecture@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadslecture@gmail.com) (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Annual Favorite Poem Evening:** April 18 is the deadline for submissions for the Annual Favorite Poem Evening to be held on April 24 at the Library. Send the title and author of a published poem you have chosen (other than one by you or your friends) along with your name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Library ([ellenr@takomagov.org](mailto:ellenr@takomagov.org)). The event will be hosted by Anne Becker, Takoma Park's Poet Laureate. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. (*Library*)

**El Dia de los Ninos/ El Dia de los Libros:** The Library will hold its second annual "Dia" celebration on Saturday April 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a national event highlighting multicultural storytelling. Our special guest will be acclaimed storyteller Diane Macklin with tales for children of all ages. There will also be crafts and some special surprises for children. Contact the Library to pre-register by calling 301-891-7259 or by e-mailing [library-programs@spambob.net](mailto:library-programs@spambob.net) (Put 'dia' in the subject line).

Sponsored by the Library and the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.  
(Library)

**Poetry for Families Workshop - Saturday, April 12:** Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker's free poetry workshop for families - parents and their children - begins this Saturday, April 12 (and continues on April 26 and on May 3). The workshops will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated by the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**"Third Thursday" poetry reading - Thursday, April 17:** The poetry of Kathy Richey, Kathy Williams and Hayes Davis will be featured at this month's "third Thursday" poetry reading. The reading will be held this coming Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**Spring for Poetry:** Poems by 36 different poets have been posted at a variety of locations in Takoma Park. Supported by Merrill Leffler, Ann Slayton, Clair Garman, Frank, and Gallant, art students from Montgomery College, the Friends of the Library - and many others - this successful celebration of poems throughout the Takoma Park community is in its second year. A list of the poems and their locations is on the City web site and also the Friends of the Library web page which is linked to the Library page. (Library)